Liturgies.-C. of E.-Occas. Offices.-Consecr. of Churches.-Banbury
K
4

THE FORM of PRAYER, AND CEREMONIES, TO BE USED AT THE CONSECRATION OF THE NEW CHURCH, AT BANBURY, in the COUNTY of OXFORD;

ON WEDNESDAY THE SIXTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1797:

BY THE

RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD,

EDWARD, LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD.

Legge

THE

FORM of PRAYER,

AND

SERMONS,

TO BE USED AT THE

CONSECRATION

OF THE

NEW CHURCH,

AT

EDWARD, LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD.

PREPARATIONS

IN ORDER TO THE

CONSECRATING

OF A

CHURCH.

THE Church is to be pewed, and furniſhed with a Reading Deſk, Common Prayer, and Great Bible, and one or more Surplices; as alſo with a Pulpit and Cuſhion, a Font, and a Communion Table; and with Linen and Veſſels for the ſame.

The Endowment, and the Evidences thereof, are to be laid before the Biſhop or his Chancellor, ſome Time before the Day appointed, in order to the preparing of the Act or Sentence of Conſecration againſt that Day.

An Intimation of the Biſhop's Intention to conſecrate the Church, with the Day and Hour appointed for it, is to be fixed on the Church Door at leaſt three Days before.

A Chair is to be ſet for the Biſhop, on the North Side of the Communion Table, within the Rails, and another for the Chancellor without the Rails, on the ſame Side.

All Things are to be prepared for a Communion. The Church is to be kept ſhut, and empty, till the Biſhop comes, and till it be opened for his going in.

THE

FORM

OF

CONSECRATING

A

CHURCH.

THE Biſhop is to be received at the Weſt Door, or at ſome other Part of the Church, or Church-yard, which is moſt convenient for his Entrance, by the Miniſter of the Place, the Church-Wardens, and ſome of the principal Inhabitants.

At the Place where the Biſhop is received, a Petition is to be delivered to him by ſome one of the Perſons who receive him, praying that he will conſecrate the Church.

The Petition is to be read by the Regiſter.

The Biſhop, his Chaplains, the Preacher, and the Miniſter who is to read Divine Service, together with the reſt of the Clergy, if any other be preſent, enter the Church, and repair to the Veſtry, or to ſome convenient Part of the Church; where as many as are to officiate put on their ſeveral Habits; during which Time, the Pariſhioners are to repair to their Seats, and the Middle Iſle is to be kept clear.

As ſoon as the Church is quiet, the Biſhop and his Chaplains, with the Preacher and the Miniſter who is to officiate, and the reſt of the Clergy, if any other be preſent, return to the Weſt Door, and go up the Middle Iſle to the Communion Table, repeating the 24th Pſalm alternately, as they go up, the Biſhop one Verſe and they another.

PSALM XXIV.

1. The Earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is: the compaſs of the World, and they that dwell therein.

2 For

2. For he hath founded it upon the Seas: and prepared it upon the Floods.

3. Who ſhall aſcend into the Hill of the Lord, or who ſhall riſe up in the holy place?

4. Even he that hath clean Hands, and a pure Heart; and that hath not lift up his Mind unto Vanity, or ſworn to deceive his Neighbour.

5. He ſhall receive the Bleſſing from the Lord, and Righteouſneſs from the God of his Salvation.

6. This is the Generation of them that ſeek him, even of them that ſeek thy Face, O Jacob.

7. Lift up your Heads, O ye Gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlaſting Doors: and the King of Glory ſhall come in.

8. Who is the King of Glory? It is the Lord, ſtrong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in Battle.

9. Lift up your Heads, O ye Gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlaſting Doors: and the King of Glory ſhall come in.

10. Who is the King of Glory? Even the Lord of Hoſts, he is the King of Glory.

The Biſhop and his Chaplains go within the Rails; the Biſhop to the North Side of the Communion Table, and the Chaplains to the South Side: The Miniſter officiating goes to the Reading Deſk, and the Preacher to ſome convenient Seat near the Pulpit.

The Biſhop, ſitting in his Chair, is to have the Inſtrument or Inſtruments of Donation or Endowment (if any) preſented to him by the Founder, or ſome proper Subſtitute; which he lays upon the Communion Table, and then ſtanding up, and turning to the Congregation, ſays:

Dearly beloved in the Lord; foraſmuch as devout and holy Men, as well under the Law as under the Goſpel, moved either by the ſecret Inſpiration of the Bleſſed Spirit, or by the expreſs Command of God, or by their own Reaſon and Senſe of the natural Decency of Things, have erected Houſes for the Publick Worſhip of God, and ſeparated them from all profane and common Uſes, in order to fill Men's Minds with greater Reverence for his Glorious Majeſty, and affect their Hearts with more Devotion and Humility in his Service; which pious Works have been approved of and graciouſly accepted by our Heavenly Father: Let us not doubt but he will alſo favourably approve our godly Purpoſe, of ſetting apart this Place in ſolemn Manner, to the Performance of the ſeveral Offices of religious Worſhip, and let us faithfully and devoutly beg his Bleſſing on this our Undertaking.

Then

Then the Biſhop, kneeling, ſays the following Prayer:

O eternal God, mighty in Power, and of Majeſty incomprehenſible, whom the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain, much leſs the Walls of Temples made with Hands, and who yet haſt been graciouſly pleaſed to promiſe thy eſpecial Preſence in whatever Place even Two or Three of thy faithful Servants ſhall aſſemble in thy Name, to offer up their Praiſes and Supplications unto thee; vouchſafe, O Lord, to be preſent with us who are here gathered together, with all Humility and Readineſs of Heart, to conſecrate this Place to the Honour of thy great Name; ſeparating it from henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common Uſes, and dedicating it to thy Service, for reading thy holy Word, for celebrating thy holy Sacraments, for offering to thy glorious Majeſty the Sacrifices of Prayer and Thankſgiving, for bleſſing thy People in thy Name, and for the Performance of all other holy Ordinances: Accept, O Lord, this Service at our Hands, and bleſs it with ſuch Succeſs, as may tend moſt to thy Glory, and the Furtherance of our Happineſs both temporal and ſpiritual, through Jeſus Chriſt our bleſſed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

After this let the Biſhop ſtand up, and turning his Face toward the Congregation, ſay:

Regard, O Lord, the Supplications of thy Servants; and grant, that whoever ſhall be dedicated to thee in this Houſe by Baptiſm, may be ſanctified with the Holy Ghoſt

Ghoſt, delivered from thy Wrath and eternal Death, and received as a living Member of Chriſt's Church, and may ever remain in the Number of thy faithful and elect children. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that they who in this Place ſhall in their own Perſons renew the Promiſes and Vows made by their Sureties for them at their Baptiſm, and thereupon be confirmed by the Biſhop, may receive ſuch a Meaſure of thy Holy Spirit, that they may be enabled, faithfully to fulfil the ſame, and grow in Grace unto their Lives End. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that whoſoever ſhall receive in this Place the bleſſed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Chriſt, may come to that holy Ordinance with Faith, Charity, and true Repentance; and being filled with thy Grace and heavenly Benediction, may, to their great and endleſs Comfort, obtain Remiſſion of their Sins, and all other Benefits of his Paſſion. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that by thy holy Word which ſhall be read and preached in this Place, and by thy holy Spirit graſting it inwardly in the Heart, the Hearers thereof may both perceive and know what Things they ought to do, and may have Power and Strength to fulfil the ſame. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that whoſoever ſhall be joined together in this Place in the holy Eſtate of Matrimony, may faithfully perform and keep the Vow and Covenant

betwixt them made, and may remain in perfect Love together unto their Lives End. *Amen.*

Grant, we beſeech thee, bleſſed Lord, that whoſoever ſhall draw near unto thee in this Place, to give thee Thanks for the Benefits which they have received at thy Hands, to ſet forth thy moſt worthy Praiſe, to confeſs their Sin unto thee, and to aſk ſuch Things as are requiſite and neceſſary, as well for the Body as the Soul; may do it with ſuch Steadfaſtneſs of Faith, and with ſuch Seriouſneſs, Affection, and Devotion of Mind, that thou mayeſt accept their bounden Duty and Service, and vouchſafe to give whatever, in thy infinite Wiſdom, thou ſhalt ſee to be moſt expedient for them: All which we beg for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake, our bleſſed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

[*When a Church Yard is to be conſecrated with the Church, the following Prayer muſt come in here,* viz.]

A PRAYER

On the Conſecration of a Church Yard, together with the Church.

O God, who haſt taught us in thy holy Word, that there is a Difference between the Spirit of a Beaſt that goeth downwards to the Earth, and the Spirit of a Man which aſcendeth up to God who gave it; and likewiſe by the Example of thy holy Servants, in all Ages, has taught

taught us to aſſign peculiar Places where the Bodies of thy Saints may reſt in Peace, and be preſerved from all Indignities, whilſt their Souls are ſafely kept in the Hands of their faithful Redeemer: Accept, we beſeech thee, this charitable Work of ours, in ſeparating this Portion of Land [*the Ground encompaſſing this Place, and now properly fenced*] to that good Purpoſe; and give us Grace, that by the frequent Inſtances of Mortality which we behold, we may learn, and ſeriouſly conſider, how frail and uncertain our Condition here on Earth is, and ſo number our Days, as to apply our Hearts unto Wiſdom. That in the midſt of Life thinking upon Death, and daily preparing ourſelves for the Judgment that is to follow, we may have our Part in the Reſurrection to Eternal Life, with him who died for our Sins, and roſe again for our Juſtification, and now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghoſt, one God World without End. *Amen.*

The Biſhop ſitting in his Chair.

Then the Sentence of Conſecration is to be read by the Chancellor, and ſigned by the Biſhop, and by him ordered to be regiſtered, and then laid upon the Communion Table.

After this, the Perſon appointed is to read the Service for the Day except where it is otherwiſe directed.

PROPER PSALMS, LXXXIV. CXXII. CXXXII.

FIRST LESSON, 1 Kings VIII. from Verſe 22 inclu-ſive to Verſe 62.

SECOND LESSON, Hebrews X. from Verſe 19 inclu-ſive to Verſe 26.

After the Collect for the Day, the Miniſter who reads the Service ſtops, till the Biſhop hath ſaid the following Prayer:

O moſt bleſſed Saviour, who by thy gracious Preſence at the Feaſt of Dedication, didſt approve and honour ſuch religious Services as this which we are now performing unto thee, be preſent at this Time with us alſo by thy holy Spirit; and becauſe Holineſs becometh thine Houſe for ever, ſanctify us we pray thee, that we may be living Temples, holy and acceptable unto thee; and ſo dwell in our Hearts by Faith, and poſſeſs our Souls by thy Grace, that nothing which defileth may enter into us; but that being cleanſed from all carnal and corrupt Affections, we may ever be devoutly given to ſerve thee in all good Works, who art our Saviour, Lord, and God, bleſſed for evermore. *Amen.*

Then the Miniſter proceeds in the Service of the Day, to the End of the General Thankſgiving. After which, the Biſhop ſays the following Prayer:

Bleſſed be thy name, O Lord, that it hath pleaſed thee to put it into the Hearts of thy Servants, to erect this

this Houſe to thy Honour and Worſhip. Bleſs, O Lord, them, their Families, and Subſtance, and accept the Works of their Hand; remember them concerning this; wipe not out this Kindneſs that they have ſhewed for the Houſe of their God, and the Offices thereof; and grant that all, who ſhall enjoy the Benefit of this pious Work, may ſhew forth their Thankfulneſs by making a right Uſe of it, to the Glory of thy bleſſed Name, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

Then the Miniſter who officiates, is to go on with the Prayer of St. Chryſoſtom, *and the* Grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

Then a Pſalm is to be ſung, viz. Pſalm XXVI. *Verſe* 6, 7, 8; *with* Gloria Patri.

COMMUNION SERVICE.

The Biſhop ſtanding at the North ſide of the Communion Table, as before, reads the Communion Service.

After the Collect for the King, he ſays the following Prayer:

O moſt glorious Lord God, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee any Thing belonging to us; yet we beſeech thee, in thy great Goodneſs, graciouſly to accept the Dedication of this Place to thy Service, and to proſper this our Undertaking: Receive the

Prayers

Prayers and Interceſſions of us, and all others thy Servants, who, either now or hereafter, entering into this Houſe, ſhall call upon thee; and give both them and us Grace to prepare our Hearts to ſerve thee with Reverence and godly Fear: Affect us with an awful Apprehenſion of thy divine Majeſty, and a deep Senſe of our own Unworthineſs; that ſo, approaching thy Sanctuary with Lowlineſs and Devotion, and coming before thee with clean Thoughts and pure Hearts, with Bodies undefiled and Minds ſanctified, we may always perform a Service acceptable to thee, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

The two Chaplains are to read, one the Epiſtle, and the other the Goſpel.

THE EPISTLE,

2 Corinthians VI. Verſe 14 to Verſe 17.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with Unbelievers: for what Fellowſhip hath Righteouſneſs with Unrighteouſneſs? And what Communion hath Light with Darkneſs? And what Concord hath Chriſt with Belial? Or what Part hath he that believeth, with an Infidel? And what agreement hath the Temple of God with Idols? for ye are the Temple of the living God; as God hath ſaid, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they ſhall be my People.

THE

THE GOSPEL,

John II. Verſe 13 to Verſe 18.

And the Jews' Paſſover was at hand, and Jeſus went up to Jeruſalem, and found in the Temple thoſe that ſold Oxen, and Sheep, and Doves, and the Changers of Money ſitting. And when he had made a Scourge of ſmall Cords, he drove them all out of the Temple, and the Sheep, and the Oxen, and poured out the Changers' Money, and overthrew the Tables; and ſaid unto them that ſold Doves, Take theſe Things hence; make not my Father's Houſe an Houſe of Merchandize. And his Diſciples remembered that it was written, The Zeal of thine Houſe hath eaten me up.

Then the Biſhop reads the Nicene Creed. *After which a Pſalm is ſung viz.* Pſalm C.

THE SERMON.

The Sermon being ended, and all who do not receive the holy Communion returned, and the Doors ſhut; the Biſhop proceeds in the Communion Service; and he and the Clergy having made their Oblations, the Church-Wardens collect the Offerings of the reſt of the Congregation.

After

After the Communion, and immediately before the final Bleſſing, the Biſhop ſays the following Prayer:

Bleſſed be thy Name, O Lord God, for that it pleaſeth thee to have thy Habitation among the Sons of Men, and to dwell in the Midſt of the Aſſembly of the Saints upon earth; bleſs, we beſeech thee, the religious Performance of this Day; and grant that in this Place, now ſet apart for thy Service, thy holy Name may be worſhipped in Truth and Purity to all Generations, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace of God, which paſſeth all Underſtanding, keep your Hearts and Minds in the Knowledge and Love of God, and of his Son Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; and the Bleſſing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghoſt, be amongſt you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*